

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 96-786

March 5, 1999

CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY
Petition for Approval to Furnish
Gas Service In and To Areas
Not Currently Receiving Natural
Gas Service

ORDER APPROVING
SCHEDULES OF RATES
AND TERMS OF SERVICE

I. SUMMARY

I approve CMP Natural Gas's terms and conditions of service pages 1.0 through and including page 20.1 (all Originals), schedules of rates pages 110.00 Original through 130.01 (all Originals), and page 160.00 Original, as filed on February 25, 1999, finding them to be in compliance with our December 17, 1998 Order.¹ These schedules are effective March 5, 1999 as requested by the CMP Natural Gas.

II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On December 17, 1998 the Commission issued an Order in this docket approving CMP Natural Gas's proposed rate plan but did not approve certain of CMP Natural Gas's proposed rates and terms of service as filed in this proceeding on October 1, 1998. On January 20, 1999, the Director of Technical Analysis issued an order approving CMP Natural Gas's proposed customer charge. On January 17, 1999, the Commission approved CMP Natural Gas's proposed Collection Fee.

On February 2, 1999, CMP Natural Gas filed revised schedules in response to the Commission's December 17th Order. The Consumer Assistance Division reviewed the proposed schedules and recommended several minor changes to ensure consistency with the Commission's rules on customer service, payment and disconnection procedures.

CMP Natural Gas filed finally revised schedules on February 25, 1999, proposing a new effective date of March 5, 1999. CMP Natural Gas served copies of the schedules on all active parties in this proceeding (Northern Utilities, Inc., Bangor Gas Company, L.L.P., and the Office of the Public Advocate) and the cover letter on all parties.

¹ In that order, we authorized CMP Natural Gas to provide natural gas local distribution service under its proposed rate plan and to begin construction.

CMP Natural Gas requests final approval as soon as is practicable and seeks a waiver of the Commission's rules, to the extent necessary, to permit the schedules to become effective on March 5, 1999.

III. ANALYSIS

The Commission has delegated general authority to the Director of Technical Analysis to review and approve rate schedules filed in compliance with our orders.

In its December 17th Order, the Commission approved CMP Natural Gas's overall rate plan, including its proposed Index Price Option (IPO) and Fixed Price Option (FPO) gas price adjustment mechanisms and basic rates. Other provisions of CMP Natural Gas's proposed schedules, specifically proposed customer charges and collection fee, were approved subsequently. This review need only ensure that the schedules are consistent with our rules and previous orders. CMP Natural Gas has modified those portions of the schedules that staff indicated were not consistent with our rules on credit and collection, payment, or other practices. Consequently, the schedules now appear to be in compliance with our rules and orders.

Accordingly, I

O R D E R

1. That CMP Natural Gas's proposed rate schedules and terms and conditions of service pages 1.0 Original through 20.1 Original, pages 110.00 Original through 130.01 Original, and page 160 Original, as filed February 25, 1999, are approved for effect on this date.

Dated at Augusta, Maine this 5th day of March, 1999.

BY ORDER OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR
TECHNICAL ANALYSIS DIVISION

Faith Huntington